



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 2017

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the risk assessment of 1,4-dioxane under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

The EPA understands the concerns expressed in your letter regarding this chemical. Due to similar concerns, the EPA placed 1,4-dioxane on the list of TSCA Work Plan chemicals for assessment in 2012. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act amendments to TSCA provided the EPA new tools and timelines to expedite work to evaluate chemicals such as 1,4-dioxane for unreasonable risk and to take prompt risk management action when risks are found.

Under TSCA, as amended, the EPA was required to identify 10 chemicals for risk evaluation within 180 days of enactment. While the EPA had already begun work assessing 1,4-dioxane under the Work Plan, inclusion of 1,4-dioxane in the first 10 chemicals for assessment under TSCA, as amended, further demonstrates our commitment to evaluating this chemical and taking appropriate action under the new TSCA authorities and timelines.

The EPA is moving forward expeditiously to evaluate 1,4-dioxane. As part of the risk evaluation process for the first 10 chemicals, the EPA held a public meeting on February 14, 2017, to receive input and information to assist the Agency in its efforts to establish the scope of these risk evaluations. Relevant information, including the docket for 1,4-dioxane, can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/evaluating-risk-existing-chemicals-under-tsca>. The scoping document on these chemicals will be available by June 22, 2017, and will identify the uses to be evaluated and the path forward for the risk evaluation. In addition, the EPA has reached out to states, including New York, on 1,4-dioxane and the other first 10 chemicals for evaluation through the Environmental Council of the States. We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders.

As we move forward with evaluating 1,4-dioxane under TSCA, we will be working to ensure that our TSCA activities align with those taken under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). With regard to SDWA, the EPA developed a short term drinking water health advisory for 1,4-dioxane in 1987, and updated the advisory for lifetime exposures and cancer risk in 2010. In November 2016, the EPA included 1,4-dioxane on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List, a list of drinking water contaminants that may require regulation. As you know, the EPA collected data on the occurrence of 1,4-dioxane in drinking water as part of unregulated contaminant monitoring that was required to be submitted to the EPA by July 2016. In addition, the EPA is evaluating the occurrence of and health effects data for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water, but has not made a determination to regulate 1,4-dioxane under SDWA. The

EPA must make regulatory determinations for at least five contaminants on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List by January 2021. We are working with the New York State Department of Health to reduce exposure to 1,4-dioxane in those systems that have tested above our health advisory.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine McCabe", written in a cursive style.

Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 2017

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the risk assessment of 1,4-dioxane under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

The EPA understands the concerns expressed in your letter regarding this chemical. Due to similar concerns, the EPA placed 1,4-dioxane on the list of TSCA Work Plan chemicals for assessment in 2012. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act amendments to TSCA provided the EPA new tools and timelines to expedite work to evaluate chemicals such as 1,4-dioxane for unreasonable risk and to take prompt risk management action when risks are found.

Under TSCA, as amended, the EPA was required to identify 10 chemicals for risk evaluation within 180 days of enactment. While the EPA had already begun work assessing 1,4-dioxane under the Work Plan, inclusion of 1,4-dioxane in the first 10 chemicals for assessment under TSCA, as amended, further demonstrates our commitment to evaluating this chemical and taking appropriate action under the new TSCA authorities and timelines.

The EPA is moving forward expeditiously to evaluate 1,4-dioxane. As part of the risk evaluation process for the first 10 chemicals, the EPA held a public meeting on February 14, 2017, to receive input and information to assist the Agency in its efforts to establish the scope of these risk evaluations. Relevant information, including the docket for 1,4-dioxane, can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/evaluating-risk-existing-chemicals-under-tsca>. The scoping document on these chemicals will be available by June 22, 2017, and will identify the uses to be evaluated and the path forward for the risk evaluation. In addition, the EPA has reached out to states, including New York, on 1,4-dioxane and the other first 10 chemicals for evaluation through the Environmental Council of the States. We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders.

As we move forward with evaluating 1,4-dioxane under TSCA, we will be working to ensure that our TSCA activities align with those taken under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). With regard to SDWA, the EPA developed a short term drinking water health advisory for 1,4-dioxane in 1987, and updated the advisory for lifetime exposures and cancer risk in 2010. In November 2016, the EPA included 1,4-dioxane on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List, a list of drinking water contaminants that may require regulation. As you know, the EPA collected data on the occurrence of 1,4-dioxane in drinking water as part of unregulated contaminant monitoring that was required to be submitted to the EPA by July 2016. In addition, the EPA is evaluating the occurrence of and health effects data for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water, but has not made a determination to regulate 1,4-dioxane under SDWA. The

EPA must make regulatory determinations for at least five contaminants on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List by January 2021. We are working with the New York State Department of Health to reduce exposure to 1,4-dioxane in those systems that have tested above our health advisory.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine R. McCabe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Catherine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McCabe".

Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Administrator